

**CITY OF NORWALK**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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As Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director in Norwalk I am writing to oppose the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph of Senate Bill #999. The language in the first paragraph of the proposed legislation jeopardizes a coordinated incident command that we have worked hard to develop with our partners from Law Enforcement and Emergency Medical Services.

Safety of the scene and all emergency response personnel is the first responsibility of the incident commander. That role is defined by existing legislation. All personnel under unified incident command are responsible to the Incident Commander. The operational concept of Unified Command it not so much who is in command but who is in charge of what. It has been long accepted that the roles of Police, Fire and EMS are under the operational control of their respective on scene commanders but overall incident command rests with the senior fire officer on scene.

For these reasons I respectfully request that the current legislation be modified to avoid conflict with existing legislation as good emergency scene safety.

Respectfully submitted  
Chief Denis McCarthy  
Norwalk Fire Department